

## TREASURE

## OUR

new jersey

## COASTS

## and

## ESTUARIES

NEW JERSEY'S COASTLINE IS RICH AND DIVERSE. IT SPANS AN INTENSELY DEVELOPED URBAN WATERFRONT IN THE NORTHEAST, A RAPIDLY GROWING SUBURBAN COASTLINE, THE RURAL DELAWARE BAY SHORELINE, AND THE DEVELOPING DELAWARE RIVER SHORELINE. COASTAL INDUSTRIES SUCH AS TOURISM, MARITIME TRADE, AND COMMERCIAL AND RECREATIONAL FISHING, CONTRIBUTE ENORMOUSLY TO NEW JERSEY'S ECONOMY. THE COAST ALSO PROVIDES CRUCIAL HABITAT FOR A WEALTH OF WILDLIFE, INCLUDING MIGRATORY BIRDS, COMMERCIALLY VALUABLE FISH AND SHELLFISH, AND SPORTING AND RECREATIONAL SPECIES. THE COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT ACT (CZMA) PROVIDES THE FRAMEWORK NECESSARY TO SUSTAIN THE ECONOMIC AND ECOLOGICAL VALUE OF NEW JERSEY'S COASTAL AREAS. THIS LAW, WHICH IS ADMINISTERED BY THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION (NOAA), RECOGNIZES A NATIONAL INTEREST IN OUR COASTAL AND OCEAN AREAS. IT ALLOWS EACH STATE AND TERRITORY, NOT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, TO DETERMINE HOW BEST TO BALANCE CONSERVATION OF THE COASTAL ENVIRONMENT WITH HUMAN USES THAT DEPEND ON COASTAL RESOURCES.

miles of coastline  
**1,792**

coastal population in 2000  
**7,575,546**

fy03 czma core (section 306)  
funding  
**\$2,000,000**

fy03 czma enhancements  
(section 309) funding  
**\$540,000**

fy03 coastal nonpoint  
implementation  
**\$325,000**

fy03 national estuarine research  
reserve operations, education,  
monitoring and stewardship  
**\$555,000**

fy03 national estuarine research  
reserve land acquisition and  
construction  
**\$85,000**

## THE CZMA IN NEW JERSEY

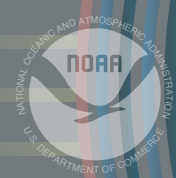
The CZMA establishes two programs to balance the use and protection of America's coasts. The Coastal Management Program gives states a flexible framework to address a broad range of community development, economic, and natural resource issues at the state and local level. The National Estuarine Research Reserve System protects key coastal areas for long-term scientific study, education, and resource stewardship.

### *New Jersey Coastal Management Program*

*Approved: 1978*

*Lead Agencies: New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection,  
New Jersey Meadowlands Commission-Hackensack Meadowlands  
District only*

The New Jersey Coastal Management Program uses coastal zone management program dollars to support the administrative costs of coastal planning, regulation, and enforcement. In addition, the state uses coastal zone management funds



to improve water quality, increase the state's shellfisheries, and reduce sprawl through better planning. The Coastal Management Program has supported municipal efforts to develop master plans that are responsive to coastal resource concerns and regulations. This has been achieved through small grant programs, workshops, and technical assistance. In 2000-2001, the Department of Environmental Protection distributed Coastal Zone Management monies in support of municipal efforts to manage septic systems through development and dissemination of model ordinances requiring regular inspection of septic systems. New Jersey has had a great deal of success in improving water quality and reducing wetland loss.

For 14 consecutive years, New Jersey has expanded the total acreage of waters available for shellfish harvesting, due to improvements in wastewater handling along the coast and to efforts to control nonpoint source pollution. New Jersey's Cooperative Coastal Monitoring Program is recognized as a national leader in coastal monitoring. The Department protects environmentally sensitive shore areas by directing development to areas best suited for growth, or "coastal centers" of development. The Department has established limits on the amount of land that can be covered by buildings, pavement, or other impervious cover, which contributes to water pollution. The Department is also identifying areas statewide where regulatory and financial resources should be directed to manage growth and development to help achieve the state's environmental, natural resource and smart growth objectives. This approach integrates the efforts of the Department of Environmental Protection with other Departments such as the Departments of Community Affairs, Agriculture and Transportation.

The Hackensack Meadowlands District is a 30.4 square-mile located approximately five miles west of New York City in northern New Jersey. In spite of its proximity to intense urban development, the area contains almost 6,000 acres of wetlands as well as close to 2,000 acres of waterways that provide needed habitat for fish and wildlife species. The New Jersey Meadowlands Commission oversees the preservation, enhancement, and economic development of this area and has primary oversight for planning and zoning, including consistency with certain state laws. A comprehensive master plan helps to articulate the vision for this region and guide land use and development.

## ***New Jersey's National Estuarine Research Reserve Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve***

***Designated: 1998***

***Lead Agency: Marine and Coastal Sciences, Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey***

The Jacques Cousteau Reserve encompasses over 110,000 acres in southeastern New Jersey, including a great variety of terrestrial, wetland, and aquatic habitats within the Mullica River-Great Bay ecosystem. The reserve consists of federal and state lands managed in partnership through a variety of agencies including U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services, the Pinelands Commission, the Tuckerton Seaport, Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, and the New Jersey Coastal Program.

This area is regarded as one of the least disturbed estuaries in the densely populated urban corridor of the Northeastern United States. Occurring within the unique New Jersey Pinelands forest ecosystem on the coastal plain and the barrier islands of the coastal margin, the Mullica River-Great Bay estuary is of special ecological value. Because the properties within the reserve are entirely in public ownership, they serve as an excellent site to provide a long-term database for valuable management of coastal resources.

The reserve is equipped with a unique research platform designed to continuously sample the marine environment. This equipment is called the Long-term Ecosystem Observatory at 15 meters. The reserve is focusing research and monitoring efforts on the effects of nonpoint source pollution on estuaries, coastal upwelling, near-shore sediment transport, essential fish habitat and salt marsh restoration.

The Jacques Cousteau Coastal Education Center in Tuckerton serves as the hub for education and outreach programs associated with the reserve. The Center is designed to serve adult learners including K-12 educators and coastal decisionmakers.

The reserve provides practical information for coastal decisionmakers to foster informed management of land and other natural resources. In addition, the reserve provides K-12 educators with professional development opportunities designed to improve science learning and access to quality educational materials.

## PARTNERSHIPS IN ACTION

The New Jersey Coastal Management Program and the Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research reserve collaborate on a regular basis to conduct workshops for coastal decisionmakers on a variety of coastal issues. These workshops have been well received. The scope and delivery of this program along with technical products and services will be expanded as part of a system-wide coastal training initiative.